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James E. Edmonds to Major & Mrs. J. E. Edmonds (6 December 1896)

James E. Edmonds

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Oxford Miss. Dec. 6. 1876.

My Dear Father and Mother.

I received your note Saturday Morning and the telegram I found awaiting ^{to answer} for me at the after "guy" Saturday night. I sent answer to the telegram tonight. An answer is going to your note now.

I received the money last Friday week. Waited until my regular Sunday letter to answer it. Sunday, Monday and part of Tuesday I was sick. After that reviewing came in and making up for the time I had lost - which kept me busy until Friday. I would have written Saturday but thought it would not matter then if it was full of mine Sunday I should have acknowledged the money whether I wrote a letter or no. But that duty I confess was neglected.

As to the last month's report. I studied harder that month than the first. The absences from chapel and class were every one caused by sickness - no serious illness like fever but head-aches. The five demerits were not from any mischief gotten into but from an unexcused absence. That is one I neglected to see the "prof" about.

If you do not care to take my word for it you may write to the professors and they by turning to their

class books can very easily send you the time, place
and manner of my failure to appear and the excuse
handed in. I have been doing harder work on my lessons
ever since I started. It may be as you say, it is a lack of capacity.
Prof. Lifscamp told me he said to you, that I was doing very
well in his department. But yet second was on my report
and was read out in class.

I went down to see Percy this morning before
church. His father was in the room and said he had seen
you last Monday and that you were or seemed to be, well.
Percy has been right sick but of so little importance is
one or two boys more or less that no one knew he was sick
and I was unaware of his condition until Friday.
I had noticed his absence from chapel but as I am
in the same class room with him only one hour
during the week the idea of his being sick never
occurred to me until some of the boys who were in
the same section commenced inquiring of me
concerning him. Doctor Sutherland told me he
intended taking him home with him, and also that
he was going to look around for a house for his family.

★

There has been a great deal of sickness in Oxford - the Union Female College had an epidemic of typhoid fever and three fourths of the girls there were sick. I was at the train when some of the girls were brought down to the depot on cots - and four of them were put in the baggage-car in this condition. It was for a night nice. Imagine, it, in that open car - with all the baggage masters and his assistants around. The noise and rattle of trunks and no sleep no rest all night long. Almost as bad as a case of typhoid fever to have to undergo such an experience.

One of the four, a Miss Ethel Cook from Texas, got home safely and then died from a case of pneumonia caught at the trip. There has been one case in School over in the dormitories. Apropos of the afore mentioned celebrating place James ^{T. & E.} Combs received a letter from home forbidding him to go to Campfire at the same that James ^{T. & E.} Combs received a communication to the same purport. I have decided to remain where I am until the intersession exams. or till spring. for two days before the last of Nov. during that cold snap I had to go down town and under the strong object lesson

of what I might have to go through with if I moved
down town my decision was very quickly made up.

Speaking of dancing, you seem to think
Edmondson and I go out in society too much to get us.
He does not dance and I have only been calling with
him once. There was a leap year dance given by the
young ladies Friday night but as I had a long election
lesson for Monday and was, besides, afraid if I went
that I would rest too much and thereby catch cold.
Consequently I staid away and was awake enough to
study Saturday. The foot-ball trip to Holly Springs was
put off until next Saturday - Dec. the 15th.

As you seem to object to my going out any I have decided
not to go calling or to any more dances this term. Does
it please you.

Give my love to Cousin Lillian and Cousin Pura and
tell Mr. Butler that I won't him to take me deer-hunting
X-mas holidays. as I am promising Dr. Jones son to
come home with me and be shown some hunting during
those long looked forward-to-two weeks.

From your loving son -
James Edmondson.



Mrs. J. E. C. Arnold.
Beacons.
Miss.

